

Bihar District Gazetteers



HAZARIBAGH

By

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PREFACE.

I feel great pleasure in writing a preface to the new revised District Gazetteer of my district. The last Gazetteer of Hazaribagh district was compiled by Mr. E. Lister, C.I.E., I.C.S., and published in 1917. It was mentioned in the preface of the book that the Gazetteer had been compiled on the basis of Hunter's Statistical Account (1875), Settlement Report of Hazaribagh by Mr. J. D. Sifton, I.C.S., and some other published books. The last District Gazetteer was thus more or less an administrator's hand-book. Since 1917, however, there have been phenomenal changes in the district of Hazaribagh and a complete re-writing of the District Gazetteer was a necessity. An attempt has, therefore, been made to make the present Gazetteer more comprehensive, with up-to-date materials and fullest available information.

In the course of collecting materials for the re-writing of this Gazetteer, the Editor has drawn on suggestions and contributions from a number of collaborators. A number of old published but rare books like Rushton's Gazetteer (1841), old copies of Asiatic Society and other journals, Statistical Accounts, etc., were made available to the Editor through the courtesy of the Librarian, National Library, Calcutta. The Editor had also the opportunity of studying a mass of old documents regarding the district in the National Archives, New Delhi. The excellent source materials in the shape of the decaying old English Correspondence Volumes for the 18th and 19th centuries available in the Record Rooms of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh and the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division, Ranchi, were studied. A sister volume of this re-written District Gazetteer of Hazaribagh based on this source material has been separately published. Rannel's map of the district which was not known as Hazaribagh then has been reproduced. The materials in this volume have thus been largely drawn both from official and non-official sources and also from detailed and scholarly study of all old, ancient and almost decaying records in and outside the State, wherever available, in a spirit of true research.

Sri Krishna Ballav Sahay as Minister of Revenue, Bihar had taken a great interest in the revision of the District Gazetteer and could find time to glance through some of the

drafts. Sri Nanda Lal Sinha, Retired Deputy Magistrate and Chief Election Officer, Bihar with his experience of administrative service in this district for a long time had very kindly taken pains to read with the Editor the drafts in 1956, for which he deserves our thanks. Through the courtesy of the then Government of Bihar and the Editor, I had also the privilege of carefully and minutely going through the whole draft and then discussing it in detail with the Editor for a pretty long time in 1956. Having had the advantage and experience of being a local resident of the district, I gave a number of suggestions which the Editor has very kindly implemented in this volume.

While going through the draft, before it was published, I could very well appreciate the great scholarly labour and pains which the Editor of the volume had put in, while completing this volume and for which I hope the readers and the future historians will be thankful to him. I am sure this book as also its sister volume "Hazaribagh Old Records, 1761-1878" will prove very useful both for public and private purposes.

PATNA:

15th July 1957.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE last District Gazetteer of Hazaribagh by E. Lister, C.I.E., I.C.S., was published in 1917 and had the following Preface:—

“ This Gazetteer has been compiled on the basis of the Statistical Account of Hazaribagh, which was prepared about 1875 under the supervision of Sir William Hunter. It follows closely the form of the corresponding volume on Manbhum which was written by Mr. H. Coupland, I.C.S., and much of its matter has been suggested by the gazetteers of Manbhum and Gaya. In addition to published books, which have been indicated in the appropriate places, valuable original contributions have been received on special subjects from the Rev. S. L. Thompson (Botany), Mr. L. L. Fermor (General Geology), Mr. Thomas H. Ward (Giridih Coalfield), Mr. G. C. Lathbury (Bokaro Colliery), Dr. A. Jowett (Karanpura Valley), Mr. E. Lane (Mica), Mr. C. J. B. Wight Boycott (Emigration), the Rev. J. C. Forrester (Anglican Mission), the Rev. J. A. Dyer (U. F. Church of Scotland Mission), and Babu Bisheshvar Mukharji (Agriculture). The statistics of the recent years have been compiled by Babu J. C. Datta, Deputy Magistrate and Collector of Hazaribagh.

Extracts from or references to the Settlement Report of Hazaribagh appear throughout the book, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging my great indebtedness to its author, Mr. J. D. Sifton, I.C.S., late Settlement Officer of Chotanagpur.”

The present book is a completely re-written edition excepting for portions in Chapters ‘ Physical Aspects ’ and ‘ Geology and Minerals ’. In the course of the last 40 years and particularly in the last 10 years there have been such basic changes in the district that a merely revised edition was not indicated.

The editor is grateful to the collaborators, officials and non-officials, and particularly to Shri Nandalal Sinha, retired Deputy Magistrate and Chief Election Officer, Bihar and Shri Radha Govind Prasad, M.A., B.L., M.L.C., who is now Deputy Minister, Revenue. The editor also got great encouragement from Shri Krishna Ballabh Sahay who was

Minister for Revenue and took keen interest in this work. A book like this could only be produced by the pooling of resources. Besides the help of some of the collaborators the editor got a lot of useful materials by study of the old correspondence volumes preserved in Hazaribagh Record Room. Some of the excerpts have been separately published as Hazaribagh Old Records. Some of the documents preserved in the National Archives, New Delhi were also very helpful. The editor has also been helped by study of a number of books some of which have been mentioned in the bibliography to some Chapters and the rest are mentioned here:—

- (1) An Advanced History of India by R. C. Mazumdar, H. C. Rai Chaudhury and K. K. Datta.
- (2) The Cambridge History of India, Vol. IV.
- (3) The Glories of Magadha by J. N. Samaddar.
- (4) Ancient Geography of India by General Alexander Cunningham.
- (5) Chotanagpore—A little known province of the empire, F. B. Bradley Birt.
- (6) Ancient Indian Historical Traditions by F. E. Pargitor.
- (7) Ranchi District Gazetteer, 1917.
- (8) Bihar, the Heart of India, John Houlton.
- (9) Bengal Past and Present, Vols. 24 and 28.
- (10) Tour Diaries of Captain Simpson (1852-53) [Record Room of Hazaribagh].
- (11) Report of Henry Ricketts (1855) [Record Room of Hazaribagh].
- (12) The Life of Hieuen Tsiang (Beal).
- (13) Early English Administration of Bihar by J. R. Hand.
- (14) Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the District of Hazaribagh (1908—1915) by J. D. Sifton.
- (15) Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. XVI, by W. W. Hunter.
- (16) Original Papers in the National Archives, New Delhi.

(There are various papers in the National Archives which throw a considerable light on the early British administration.)

- (17) J. D. Hooker, 1848, Observations made when following the Grand Trunk Road across the hills of Upper Bengal, Parasnath in the Sone Valley, the Kumaon and the Vindhyan Hills, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. 17(II).
- (18) T. Anderson, 1863, Of the Flora of Bihar and Mountain Parasnath with a list of species collected by Messrs. Hooker, Edgeworth, Thomson and Anderson, Vol. 32.
- (19) D. Praine, 1903, Bengal Plants, Calcutta.
- (20) The Imperial Gazetteer, 1908, Oxford.
- (21) H. H. Haines, 1916. The Forest Flora of Chotanagpur. Calcutta.
- (22) H. H. Haines, 1921—25. The Botany of Bihar and Orissa, Calcutta, Hazaribagh District Gazetteer, 1917, Calcutta.
- (23) K. Biswas 1934. The Vegetation of the Neighbouring Areas of Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields. Trans. Mining and Geological Institute of India, Vol. 29.
- (24) K. Biswas, 1935. The Vegetation of Tundi and Neighbouring Areas of the Hazaribagh District, Bihar, Vol. 30.
- (25) K. Biswas and M. A. Sampat Kumaran, 1949. Botanical Notes on the Satpura Theory, Proceeding of National Institute of Sciences of India, Vol. 15(8).
- (26) Money, H. F., Supplement to the Botany of Bihar and Orissa, Ranchi, 1950.
- (27) Bressers, Rev. J., 1951. The Botany of Ranchi District, Bihar, Patna.
- (28) J. G. Srivastava. A Botanical Trip to Parasnath Hill, Bihar.

PATNA:

The 20th August 1957.

} P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY.